

# Salt Lake City's Destiny, by Mayor J. S. Bransford

IMPROVEMENTS in Salt Lake for the past decade are the surest indication of those certain to be added in the next. That Salt Lake is developing into a cosmopolitan metropolis and that each coming year from now on will make this metropolis more complex and more of a class with the larger eastern and western cities, is a fact none will dispute.

And in looking for the significance of this fact the people must judge not by population alone. There are many cities in America having several times the population of Salt Lake, which in no way approach its importance, economically, socially or politically.

Such cities are those located near enough to other cities to be mere feeders for them. Salt Lake's splendid isolation is bringing to its civic life many elements absent in such tributary centers of population as have been mentioned.

We welcome for instance, homes for all the big transcontinental theater circuits, for they need homes here that their chain from coast to coast may not be broken. The building of two new theaters this year puts Salt Lake's number of amusement centers up to the total of Denver, or any representative coast city, and from now on the city will draw whatever attractions leave New York, bound for any place on the coast.

You can reach any one of the 15 biggest centers of population in the radius of Denver, Seattle, San Francisco, and Los Angeles better from Salt Lake than from any other city in this circle. This fact is what guarantees Salt Lake's future.

The problem of the people is to get their city most into harmony with cosmopolitan ideas, to make it beautiful and attractive, to banish ugliness, and to encourage every manufacturing plant to come which means a wage list. Large numbers of men employed in various lines of manufacturing are needed because the city will thus be made independent in its prosperity of the success of the mines alone, or of farms alone, or of manufactures alone.

What the carrying out of such a policy as this has done in the past is clear from the great numbers of new homes which now beautify many suburban districts which but a year or two ago were lucra patches or wastes of weeds.

Then consider our apartment houses. The styles increase in attractiveness each year, and the number is reaching a total that five years ago would have seemed ridiculously beyond the city's needs.

When all the poles are down from Main street, and these new streetcars run through a poleless street, resurfaced with asphalt, I am confident that the people of Salt Lake will have established a new American record for an attractive and beautiful business district. In this connection the spirit which removed the bill boards from South Temple street will be to be commended.

The assurance offered by the Utah Light and Railway company is that the poles from the moved district will be removed with all practical speed, so that this business section of unapproached beauty will be an actuality by the opening of spring.

And then we have the great tourist traffic of the Seattle fair and the Grand Army convention in our own city, to show it to.

Many of them are bound to be impressed, and it is not improbable that enough people will be attracted to Salt Lake by this one item alone, to make next summer's increase in population more than offset the cost of the undertaking.

Salt Lake is not going to step easily into her destiny without a struggle. There are many serious problems to be solved before the road is cleared for progress at high speed. One of them is that of city elections. Business life and social life both work hard in Salt Lake to get the people pulling together. Just as a friendly spirit seems to be getting a good hold, and factional differences seem to be forgotten, an election becomes due. Elections are the greatest force in Salt Lake working to tear good feeling between citizens asunder. And the people are no sooner through with one than another is due. One election a year is about the rule, and it is entirely too many. Just what steps are best to take to lessen the number I leave to others to decide, but that some action should be taken I feel is one of the city's chief necessities.

Then too, there is difficulty in administration because of a certain cumbersome quality of methods employed in Salt Lake. A thing is good, and needs doing, and when an attempt is made to do it one encounters a spirit sometimes of a sectionalism that is too rampant. Executive heads of some departments are too willing to trade power by helping out one great measure only if assured support for another measure, which may or may not be good. The tendency to trade influence and votes works for harm and some way should be found to eliminate this tendency from the city government. To do so would be to relieve the city of some of its most complicating situations.

And in a field that is little thought of, a serious problem is that of the water mains. Water must be available for a big city before the city is built, and there is need for a spirit of economy in its use among those attached to the mains and of spreading the mains as rapidly as possible to all districts now not supplied.

Where sewer connections are impracticable there is need for much care to be exercised with refuse. Such a spirit adds to the general healthfulness, and to make Salt Lake a healthful city is one of the principal privileges of all its people, working together for this one particular end.

The rapid development of the sewer area this year is a thing that must be followed soon by more development along the same lines. With the intercepting sewer pump at work before spring's opening a question that has long been a vexing one will be solved. Storm sewers, particularly in the northeast district must be built, and they are one of the things the city can well afford to take hold of as soon as finances permit. Personally I favor putting the largest possible portion of the city's revenues into the city's streets, pavements, waterworks and sewers, and through getting these problems solved for a great city here, thus help to prepare the way for its inevitable development.

PREDICTIONS made a year ago in the annual number of the Christmas News have more than been fulfilled. From all corners of the sovereign state of Utah the same slogan of prosperity and advancement is reiterated. The year now drawing to a close has been one of progress in all branches of trade and enterprise. In no quarter of the state, however, has this been more marked than in Salt Lake City, which today stands preeminent as the foremost city—the City of Opportunities of the intermountain region.

Salt Lake, the capital of Utah, is a city of varied attractions. It throws its spell over all, be they investor, sight-seer, invalid, globe-trotter, or homemaker. Just what the state of Utah at large and the city of Salt Lake have to offer in the way of attractions to all classes of humanity on business or pleasure bent is set forth exhaustively in the pages that follow in this the annual Christmas edition.

Here are a few facts and figures regarding Salt Lake City, which has a population of 109,000 souls:

A splendid and unshaken business record which has been the prime factor this year of stupendous investments in real estate and the commencement of the building of what might be called a new business district where skyscrapers are now rearing their heads; a mining stock exchange with a splendid record even during the panicky times that spread over the country and left Salt Lake unscathed a little over a year ago; thirteen banks with deposits of nearly \$37,000,000, and five daily newspapers.

To the man concerned about his rising family Salt Lake offers exceptional educational advantages with its unexcelled free system which is devoted to a school population of 19,000 children between the ages of six and 18, and represents \$2,000,000 of school property. To the individual anxious about his health this city has the lowest death rate of any of the larger ones—only nine per thousand. The climate is ideal and is a great factor in preserving the public health. The nights are cool in summer and in winter the mercury rarely goes to zero. A mean temperature of 51.2-10 degrees is recorded; extreme high temperature of 98 degrees, and an even zero record for the lowest, and an average of 71 per cent of possible sunshine. Famous hot springs, salt water and mineral baths are also numbered among the city's health promoting features. The city further has a splendid waterworks system fed from the canyon streams which derive their flow from the eternal snows at the summit of the Wasatch range. An up-to-date public library with numerous literary and social clubs, and art societies are also numbered among the advantages. When it comes to higher education the University of Utah is located on the east bench overlooking the valley of the Great Salt Lake. It stands on grounds spreading over 92 acres, and the college has an enrollment of over 1,000 students. Under a recent decision of the supreme court of Utah, the university, under the enabling act, comes in for its share of the immense saline deposits in the western portion of the state. Providing the salt taken from these deposits were sold for 10 cents a ton experts estimate that \$7,000,000 represents this grant.

For the traveler Salt Lake is the hub of the transcontinental railroad systems, with a fourth now building to the coast and the promise of being completed within the next 18 months. Right in the city transportation is afforded by a splendid street car system with more than 100 miles of heavy steel track affording easy and rapid transit to the suburbs. During the past year hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent bringing this system up to the highest modern ideal of up-to-date and safe transportation. Salt Lake's broad streets which are cited throughout the civilized world are adapted to ideal street car conditions, unhindered by the usual traffic to be encountered in cities the world over. The streets are lighted by one of the best electric lighting systems, while two great telephone companies with residence and business phones exceeding more than 15,000 bona fide subscribers, the highest American per capita average, keep all residents in communication at all hours.

Salt Lake is interesting in many ways. It is the only city in the United States which has two of the fastest and finest bicycle racing tracks ever built. It has four large theaters and another to be opened January 1. The Salt Lake Theater, built by President Brigham Young, in 1892, is the fifth oldest standing theater in the United States and still today presents the lead-

ing players and singers of the country. Among the principal public buildings is a municipal city and county building, which stands amid foliage and lawns extending over 10 acres near the heart of the city. This structure was erected and furnished at a cost exceeding \$1,000,000. It is five stories high and 272x156 feet on the ground. The clock tower in the center is 250 feet high, and the four corner towers 120 feet high. The Federal building is another structure commensurate with the size of the capital of Utah.

The principal offices of all the railroads, mining companies, beet sugar factories, salt companies and other enterprises of the state are located in Salt Lake, each employing hundreds of men, while the majority of jobbers, wholesale houses, factories and big department stores all center in this city.

To the tourist the capital of the Beehive state has many attractions aside from her great enterprises, educational facilities, scenery and splendid climate. There is the great inland sea, the Dead Sea of America, which extends for 80 miles with a width of 25 miles. Across this great stretch of salt water, E. H. Harriman has thrown a railroad, thereby adding to the wonders of the west. This lake is reached by a splendid train service which daily during summer months carries packed trainloads of humanity eager for a dip in the brine that brings to them new life.

The great lake is dotted with numerous islands which range in size from mountains to black piles of rock rising above the surface of the water. Myriads of birds on some of these afford a spectacle during the hatching season which is not duplicated anywhere on the American continent. On Antelope, one of the largest and nearest to the city, one of the very few herds of buffalo in the United States roams at freedom, and a project is on foot to make the island the government breeding place of these almost extinct animals to preserve the American bison as he was when the country was discovered.

But after all the interest of the tourist centers around the Temple square which contains the massive temple, the tabernacle and the assembly hall. The old adobe wall around this block was completed Aug. 15, 1854, and is 2,650 feet in length. The wall proper is 19 feet high and three feet thick. The weight is estimated at 2,232,440 pounds. It was designed by President Brigham Young, the leader of the Mormon pioneers, and the purpose was for fortification against attacks by the Indians. The corner stone of the Salt Lake Temple was laid by President Young, on April 6, 1853, and the temple was finished April 6, 1893. It is built of Utah granite hauled by ox team from the adjacent mountains. The building is 182½ feet long, 99 feet wide, with walls 107½ feet high. Three towers on the east end, the center tower 222½ feet to top of spire; the others 200 feet each, and three towers at the west end, the center tower 219 feet to top of spire, the others 194 feet each. The walls of the building at the bottom are nine feet thick, at the top six feet; the buttress seven feet thick. The structure rests upon a footing wall 16 feet thick and eight feet deep. The figure on the top of the east center tower is of hammered copper, covered with pure gold leaf, and surmounting its crown is an incandescent lamp of 100-candle power. It represents the angel Moroni, sounding the trumpet of the gospel in the latter-day dispensation. The cost of the structure was over \$4,000,000. The tabernacle is 250x150 feet and 80 feet high, with egg-shaped roof; a gallery on three sides; the great pipe organ, pulpit and choir at west end; seats about 10,000. Large double doors at intervals around the building. First stone laid April 5, 1865; dedicated Oct. 6, 1887; cost \$300,000. Assembly hall 120x180 feet; central tower is 150 feet from the ground; seats about 2,500 and cost \$150,000. It is used as an overflow meetinghouse. Adjacent to the temple square, looking east are located the buildings of the Latter-day Saints University and the old thing yard block. On this section at the present time are being erected a massive building to accommodate the Church of offices, also a gymnasium, which when completed, will be one of the largest and best appointed in the United States. Still further east are located the Lion and Beehive houses and the Gardo house. All three were built by President Young for residences, the Beehive house at this time being the residence of President Joseph P. Smith, of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Eagle gate adjacent also is an object of interest to the tourist.



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